

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE
DUNKIN' DONUTS CENTER COMMITTEE**

May 27, 2008

A meeting of the Dunkin' Donuts Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority (hereinafter referred to as "Authority", the "CCA" or the "Board") was held on May 27, 2008, pursuant to notice, at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Committee Chairman Bernie Buonanno, Commissioners Dale Venturini, Marianne Corr, Dave Duffy, Jason Fowler and Paul MacDonald.

Also in attendance were Betty Sullivan and Kerrie Bennett, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Debbie Tuton and Nancy Beauchamp, RICC; Larry Lepore, Dunkin' Donuts Center; Larry Bacher and Steve Duvel, Gilbane; Eric Ahblorg, ABM; Lou Aurelio, Sport Service; Jessica Cigna, Senate Fiscal Office; Bruce Leach, Legal Counsel, and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Buonanno called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm and announced that the next meeting would be held on June 24th at 2:00 pm.

Noting that the minutes of the April meeting had been distributed, Mr. Buonanno sought a motion to approve. Upon a motion duly made by

Mr. Duffy and seconded by Mr. MacDonald it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the April meeting.

Mr. Buonanno asked Mr. Lepore to update the Committee on the Dunkin' Donuts Center operations. Mr. Lepore reported that although they had a good season, the Providence Bruins did not go very far in the playoffs. Mr. MacDonald commented that press coverage of games was poor and that it was even difficult to find the score of the game. Mr. Lepore reported that the circus numbers are good. Mr. Lepore noted that there are two different versions of the RBB&B Circus and this year the smaller of the two was in Providence. Mr. Lepore stated that the Van Halen concert was a sell out. Mr. Lepore reported that area businesses such as Trinity Brew House and Murphy's were standing room only. Mr. Lepore said that beer sales at the concession stands was halted at 9:30 which seemed to be the safe and prudent thing to do. Mr. Lepore said that the Hot Night concert is close to selling out. He said that there will be no beer sales except in the restaurant. Mr. Lepore conceded that this is a controversial concert but assured the committee that everything will be under control. Mr. Lepore noted that there will be pat down and wand searches as well as extra police detail. Mr. Buonanno asked if the promoter pays for extra security. Mr. Lepore said that the promoter pays for fifteen officers and we will split the cost of the additional seven. Mr. Fowler was concerned with security in the parking garages. Mr. Lepore stated that Mr. Muldoon was on top of it.

He said that we are under a microscope with this event and that everyone would do their part to keep the patrons secure. Mr. Duffy asked if the police are aware of the gang element attached to this concert. Mr. Lepore said that you can't paint this music as only attracting all gang members. He said that the ticket buyers are not all inner city kids and the same concert is playing next week at the Tweeter Center and is scheduled for Madison Square Garden. Mr. Lepore said that following the Hot Night concert the building will close.

Mr. Lepore reported that work continues on the grand re-opening and that American Idol is all set for September 7th.

Mr. Lepore was pleased to report that the RI Interscholastic League has agreed to bring back high school basketball and cheerleading back to the Dunk for the next three years.

Mr. Lepore stated that SMG has been working aggressively to bring business to the complex for the Summer of 2009. He said that they are talking to many religious and other groups to fill the facilities in our normally slow months.

Mr. Fowler noted that Mr. Abramson of Sportservice was the guest speaker at a function at Johnson & Wales. He asked Mr. Lepore to update the committee on food services at the Dunk. Mr. Lepore stated that since Lou Aurelio and John Valez had come on board

there has been a remarkable turnaround in the quality of food and service to the patrons of the facility. Mr. Lepore noted that together they bring a great deal of experience to the Dunkin' Donuts Center. He noted that food and beverage is important to the success of the building. Mr. Lepore introduced Lou Aurelio. Mr. Aurelio spoke to the committee and informed them that he was originally from the South Shore of Boston and was very happy to be back in the area.

Mr. Lepore reported on the financial statement for the month of April. Mr. Lepore noted that a better job is being done controlling overhead but there are more improvements to be made. Mr. Lepore said that this has been a challenging year but he expects to close the gap in May and be better than budget. Mr. Lepore said that next year construction will be complete and we will find ways to make the building profitable. Mr. Buonanno said that now that the building has been renovated promoters should expect to pay more in rent. Mr. Lepore noted that the promoter of the Van Halen concert was shocked at the stage hands salary because of holiday pay. The Van Halen concert was rescheduled to a holiday. Mr. MacDonald assured Mr. Lepore that he was doing a fine job. Mr. Lepore said that the facility fell short of a number we thought we could reach. Mr. Buonanno said that the facility closed the month \$400,000 better than last year. Mr. MacDonald said that as a member of the Board he is satisfied that everything is being done to make the facility profitable.

Mr. Duvel distributed the project status report. He stated that the

project remains within budget and on schedule. Mr. Duvel stated that the vendor for the exterior painting has put up a sample paint color and will be adding another. Mr. Duvel stated that the current plan is to have the painting complete in September. Mr. Duvel said that the seats will be removed and the cement cleaned following the final concert. Discussions ensued regarding the Bruins Team Store. Mr. Buonanno asked if there had been any more dialog with Dunkin' Donuts about putting a store in the building. Mr. McCarvill said that a Dunkin' Donuts store is still a question mark.

Ms. Bennett reported that the Department of Justice is currently on site. She reminded the committee that the Authority had inherited a law suit brought by the New England Paralyzed Veterans Association.

Ms. Bennett reported that the new owners of the Blue Cross building are willing to work with the Authority on the War Memorial site. Ms. Bennett stated that the State Council for the Arts has re-issued a call for art. Ms. Bennett explained the proposed legislation limiting the dollar amount per project to \$100,000. Ms. Bennett said that the legislation has delayed moving forward with our project. Mr. Duffy said that we could put some benches and planters in the space for the time being.

Mr. Ahlborg addressed the Committee and distributed his monthly report. He said that it has been a very calm month.

Mr. Buonanno asked if there was any other business. Hearing none

he sought a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Ms.. Venturini it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:50 p.m.